

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims pending

- At time of the action: Claims 1-30.
- After this response: Claims 31-49.

Currently Amended claims None.

Currently Cancelled claims Claims 1-30.

New claims 31-49.

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, synchronizes a system including a server farm comprising plural application server modules, the synchronizing comprising:

receiving notification information at a first application server module of the server farm regarding a change in the system;

acting on the notification information in the first application server module;
and

propagating the notification information from the first application server module to at least a second application server module, wherein both the first application server module and the second application server module are located on a same tier,

wherein the notification information comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests.

32. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 31, wherein the acting on the notification information in the first application server module comprises:

uploading the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first application server module.

33. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 31, wherein the propagating comprises transferring the notification information using a first queue provided by the first application server module to a second queue provided by the second application server module.

34. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 31 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed act on the notification information in the second application server module.

35. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 34, wherein the acting on the notification information in the second application server module comprises uploading the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the second application server module.

36. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 31 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when

executed repeat the propagating for at least one additional application server module in the system.

37. (New) A method for synchronizing a system including plural application server modules, comprising:

forwarding a first status information reflecting whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests on a first application server module to a second application server module, wherein both the first application server module and the second application server module are located on a same tier;

merging the first status information with a second status information to produce merged information, a non-duplicative union of the first status information and the second status information, wherein the second status information reflects whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests on the second application server module;

sending the merged information from the second application server module to the first application server module;

acting on the merged information at the first application server module; and

repeating the forwarding, merging, sending and acting for at least one other application server module.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the forwarding of the first status information is prompted by the first application server module becoming active after being inactive.

39. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the acting comprises uploading the merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first application server module.

40. (New) A computer readable-memory device comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implement the method of claim 37.

41. (New) A method of advising a user of the availability of an application in a system including plural application server modules, comprising:

receiving, at an application server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

consulting an application store associated with the application to determine whether the application is unavailable, and, if so generating a response; and

forwarding the response to the user in response to the received request, wherein the user to whom the response is forwarded is the user who requested the application, and wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own respective application store.

42. (New) A computer readable-memory device comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implement the steps of claim 41.

43. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implements a

synchronization module on a first server module in a system including plural server modules, the synchronization module comprising:

repeater logic configured to:

receive notification information pertaining to a change in the system;

upload the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application; and

propagate the notification information from the first server module to at least a second server module,

wherein the notification information uploaded to said at least one application store comprises an indication of whether or not said at least one application is available to service user requests.

44. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 43 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implements a message queue, wherein the repeater logic is configured to receive the notification information and propagate the notification information using the message queue.

45. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 43, wherein the synchronization module is configured to propagate the notification information to at least one other server module in the system.

46. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, synchronize a system including plural server modules, the synchronizing comprising:

merge logic configured to:

- forward a first status information reflecting a state in a first server module to a second server module; and

- receive merged information from a second server module, wherein the merged information reflects a merging of the first status information with a second status information, the second status information reflecting a state of the second server module, wherein the first and the second status information includes notification information regarding a change in the system, the notification information comprising an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests; and

- a repeater module configured to act on the merged information, wherein the merge logic is configured to repeat the forwarding and receiving for a third server module, wherein when a request by a user to access an application is received by the third server module, wherein the third server module is configured to:

 - check the forwarded status information; and

 - when the forwarded status information indicates the application is unavailable, immediately respond to the user who requested to use the application with a response indicating that the application is unavailable.

47. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 46, wherein the merge logic is configured to send the first status information when the first server module becomes active after have remained inactive for a predetermined time.

48. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 46, wherein the repeater module is configured to act on the merged information by uploading the merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first server module.

49. (New) One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, advise a user of the availability of an application in a system including plural server modules, the advising comprising:

an application store associated with the application;

logic configured to receive, at a first server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

logic configured to consult the application store to determine whether the application is unavailable, and, if so, to generate a response; and

logic configured to forward the response to the user,

wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own respective application store.